

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1625

To establish the Samuel Kelner Commission on Youth.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish the Samuel Kelner Commission on Youth.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Samuel Kelner Com-  
5       mission on Youth Authorization Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7       There is established a commission to be known as the  
8       “Samuel Kelner Commission on Youth” (in this Act re-  
9       ferred to as the “Commission”).

10       **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

11       The Commission shall seek to reduce apathy among  
12       American youth regarding the Nation’s system of govern-

1 ment by discussing and making policy recommendations  
2 on issues affecting American youth, including issues in the  
3 following subject areas:

- 4 (1) Public education.
- 5 (2) Youth employment and wages.
- 6 (3) Higher education financing.
- 7 (4) Youth drug abuse and violence.

8 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

9 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
10 shall be composed of 8 members, appointed as follows:

- 11 (1) 4 members appointed by the President.
- 12 (2) 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the  
13 House of Representatives.
- 14 (3) 1 member appointed by the minority leader  
15 of the House or Representatives.
- 16 (4) 1 member appointed by the majority leader  
17 of the Senate.
- 18 (5) 1 member appointed by the minority leader  
19 of the Senate.

20 (b) AGE LIMIT.—An individual may not be appointed  
21 under subsection (a) if that individual will attain 18 years  
22 of age by the date of the Commission's first meeting or  
23 conference that occurs after that individual's appointment  
24 in the term for which the individual is appointed.

25 (c) TERMS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-  
2           pointed for a term of 1 year beginning on August 1  
3           and may be reappointed.

4           (2) INITIAL TERM.—The first 8 members shall  
5           be appointed for the 1-year period that begins on  
6           August 1 of the calendar year that follows the cal-  
7           endar year of the date of the enactment of this Act.

8           (d) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a va-  
9           cancy before the expiration of the term for which the mem-  
10          ber’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only  
11          for the remainder of that term. A vacancy in the Commis-  
12          sion shall be filled in the manner in which the original  
13          appointment was made.

14          (e) PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

15          (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive  
16          travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,  
17          in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,  
18          United States Code.

19          (g) QUORUM.—A majority of the members shall con-  
20          stitute a quorum, except that a lesser number may hold  
21          hearings.

22          (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
23          mission shall be elected by the members.

24          (i) MEETINGS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In each 1 year period begin-  
2 ning August 1 the Commission—

3 (A) shall conduct 4 meetings each span-  
4 ning a period of not more than 3 days; and

5 (B) shall conduct 1 conference spanning a  
6 period of not more than 1 week.

7 (2) SCHEDULING.—

8 (A) INITIAL MEETING.—The initial meet-  
9 ing of the Commission each year under para-  
10 graph (1)(A) shall begin on the first Thursday  
11 in August.

12 (B) REMAINING MEETINGS.—The Commis-  
13 sion, by majority vote at the initial meeting  
14 each year, shall determine the dates of the re-  
15 maining meetings and the conference under  
16 paragraph (1) for that year.

17 (3) EMERGENCY MEETING.—In addition to the  
18 meetings required under paragraph (1), the Com-  
19 mission shall, at the call of the President, conduct  
20 1 emergency meeting spanning a period of not more  
21 than 3 days.

22 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR; STAFF; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**

23 (a) DIRECTOR.—

1           (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall  
2       have a Director who shall be appointed by the Presi-  
3       dent.

4           (2) PAY.—The Director shall be paid at the  
5       rate of basic pay for GS-12 of the General Schedule.

6           (b) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint additional  
7       personnel as it considers appropriate.

8           (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
9       LAWS.—The Director and staff of the Commission shall  
10      be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United  
11      States Code, governing appointments in the competitive  
12      service.

13          (d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission  
14      may procure temporary and intermittent services under  
15      section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

16          (e) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request  
17      of the Commission, the head of any Federal department  
18      or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the  
19      personnel of that department or agency to the Commission  
20      to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

21      **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

22          (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission  
23      may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-  
24      ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and  
25      receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

1       (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-  
2 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the  
3 Commission, take any action that the Commission is au-  
4 thorized to take by this section.

5       (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission  
6 may secure directly from any department or agency of the  
7 United States information necessary to enable it to carry  
8 out this Act. The Chairperson may request such informa-  
9 tion if such request is authorized by a majority vote of  
10 the Commission. Upon request of the Chairperson, the  
11 head of that department or agency shall furnish that infor-  
12 mation to the Commission.

13       (d) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United  
14 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-  
15 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United  
16 States.

17       (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon  
18 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-  
19 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-  
20 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-  
21 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities  
22 under this Act.

23       (f) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—To the extent and in  
24 the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts,  
25 the Director may contract with and compensate govern-

1 ment and private agencies or person for supplies and other  
2 services.

3 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall submit to  
5 the President and the Congress a report not later than  
6 July 1 each year.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report shall include policy rec-  
8 ommendations on issues affecting youth, including issues  
9 in the following subject areas:

- 10 (1) Public education.
- 11 (2) Youth employment and wages.
- 12 (3) Higher education financing.
- 13 (4) Youth drug abuse and violence.

14 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

15 The Commission shall terminate 5 years after the be-  
16 ginning of the terms of its first members.

17 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Com-  
19 mission to carry out this Act \$100,000 for each of fiscal  
20 years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. Such sums may  
21 remain available until expended.

